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# Extended stay in China convinced Bush of U.S. need to normalize ties

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Hong Kong—George Bush, former director of the United States Central Intelligence Agency and former chief of the U.S. Liaison Office in Peking, said here yesterday that the more he was in China, the more he was convinced that relations between Washington and Peking should be normalized.

He was giving his impressions on his meetings with Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping and other Chinese officials and on his 15-day trip to eight cities, including a rare visit to Lhasa, Tibet. He arrived here from China yesterday.

Mr. Bush underscored the existence of a common interest that dictates an improvement in the ties between the two countries, which have not made substantial headway toward normalization since the signing of the Shanghai communique in 1972.

Apart from trade and cultural exchanges, the common interest that he saw also lies in what he called "threats" from the Soviet Union.

"I am concerned about Soviet intentions, Soviet strategic capabilities, Soviet stepped-up drive for power," he said, adding that one should keep his eyes wide open in this regard.

Mr. Bush declined to reveal details of his talks with Vice Premier Teng, whom he saw more than any other diplomat in Peking and with whom he had cultivated a very warm relationship when he was head of the U.S. Liaison Office in China.

He said the Chinese officials with whom he had discussed a wide range of

subjects did not leave with him the impression that they are flexible on Taiwan. Their insistence that the U.S. meet China's three conditions for normalization of relations is but a reiteration of an old position, according to Mr. Bush.

The three conditions are the severance of formal U.S. ties with Taiwan, the abrogation of the 1954 defense treaty with Taiwan and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the island.

"China has a point in saying that the Taiwan issue is its own business, but on the other hand, we also have a point in saying that we want to see a peaceful solution to the Taiwan question," Mr. Bush said.

Asked how this gap could be bridged, he said he did not know, but thought both sides should keep working to find a way.

He stopped short of pointing out what seems to be China's contradictory position in forcing the U.S. to unilaterally abandon its treaty commitments in another area, and in this case it happens to be Taiwan.

On his observations of China's internal scene, he thought the present leaders seem more confident and competent, and the whole atmosphere appears more relaxed, with people willing to discuss subjects in depth.

Watching China's domestic developments from Washington, he said, the whole thing looked like a pure power struggle, but actually there was more than just that.

Now that he has traveled to the heart of the country, to Chungking and Chengtu

in Szechwan province, to the industrial city of Wuhan in Hupeh province, to Changsha, Kweilin and Kwangchow in the South, and to Tibet, he said he understood the so-called "gang of four" better than before. Mr. Bush had no opportunity to visit these far-flung places when he was stationed in Peking.

"I hadn't realized the full depth of the divisiveness caused by the gang of four in industry, the arts and education, in Peking and in the provinces," he said.

He described his visit to Tibet as fascinating. His was the second American group allowed there since James R. Schlesinger, the Secretary of Energy, went there as a private citizen last year.

An oil expert himself, Mr. Bush thought one area where the two countries can co-operate is the development of China's vast petroleum resources. The technology, especially technology in tapping offshore and deep sea deposits, is in the U.S. And China can get it only from the U.S., he noted.

In his opinion, the co-operation must bring benefits to both countries, and this can be done by devising a formula that will not make it appear as if China is giving away its resources to the U.S.

On whether China can achieve its modernization programs before the end of the century, Mr. Bush said he did not underestimate its potential.